

of the Business and Professional Women's Division of UJA of Northern New Jersey, and was instrumental in increasing its membership. Norma Koster also has devoted herself to committees for the Jewish Home and Rehabilitation Center, Jewish Family Services, and given programs for the National Council of Jewish Women. In addition to her professional work as a successful fine jewelry designer and goldsmith, Norma is above all devoted to her children and grandchildren, her husband, and her entire family.

Like Norma, his wife of seventeen years, Bernie Koster is well-known for his leadership and unwavering commitment to the people of New Jersey, the Jewish community, and the State of Israel. He is a leading philanthropist and is active on behalf of many charitable causes and organizations. He is also a Member of the Board of Trustees of twelve separate organizations, including the UJA Federation of North Jersey, the Jewish Home at Rockleigh, Temple Emanu-El of Closter, Jewish Family Service, Gilda's Club of Northern New Jersey, the JCC of the Palisades, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation, the Bergen PAC, Israel Bonds, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the Anti-Defamation League itself.

Bernie Koster is also a past President of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Nassau County, New York, and co-chaired the capital campaign for his synagogue, Temple Emanu-El of Closter, where he was honored with the prestigious Shem Tov Award in 1995 for his dedicated service to the community.

Bernie Koster is also unwavering in his dedication to the State of Israel. A strong supporter of Israel Bonds, he has been appointed to the New Jersey-Israel Commission for nine years. He has visited Israel seven times, and has demonstrated through his committed and passionate work on behalf of Israel Bonds his belief that the State of Israel is the lifeblood for the survival of the Jewish people.

A highly successful attorney and real estate consultant, Bernie shares his wife Norma's dedication to faith and family. He is devoted to his children and grandchildren, and both Bernie and Norma are true exemplars of family values.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, I ask that you join me in recognizing Norma and Bernie Koster for their civic activism and leadership in the fight against discrimination, hatred, and anti-Semitism.

THE AMERASIAN
NATURALIZATION ACT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, our immigration law has long recognized that children born outside our country to an American father and a foreign national mother are U.S. citizens as long as their fathers take necessary steps to achieve their child's citizenship.

Unfortunately, there remains a group of forgotten sons and daughters who, despite being born to American fathers, cannot take advantage of this existing provision of the law to be-

come U.S. citizens. These are the offspring of American servicemen and Asian women during the Vietnam and Korean Wars whose fathers did not take the steps of acknowledging paternity necessary to make their offspring citizens. However, the American government did that for them by acknowledging that their fathers were American citizens.

Many of these individuals have lived through devastation during war, have been mistreated by their governments because of their mixed race, and many now live in the United States, but only as legal permanent residents.

There is no doubt that Amerasians are the sons and daughters of American fathers. Our American government already made that determination when we admitted them to the United States as legal permanent residents.

To correct this unfair inequality in our law, I am introducing the Amerasian Naturalization Act, along with bipartisan cosponsors, to ensure that Amerasians are accorded U.S. citizenship just like the offspring of other American fathers are.

I hope this Congress will act swiftly and pass the Amerasian Naturalization Act. It is time for us to finally close a chapter in our history that has too long denied Amerasians the opportunity to become citizens and be recognized as the Americans that they are.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALEXANDER
BAILEY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Superintendent of Oak Park Public Schools, Dr. Alexander Bailey, who will retire June 30, 2005.

Dr. Alexander Bailey's career in education dates back to 1969 when he was a high-school teacher in Philadelphia, PA at Paul Washington High School. In subsequent years, Dr. Bailey continued his education, assumed building level responsibility as a principal, and ultimately was appointed Superintendent of Oak Park Public Schools in 1991.

Under his leadership, Oak Park Public Schools has successfully designed programs and intervention methods to meet the needs of their school population. Programs and interventions such as extended day, the Oak Park Academy, and the Literacy Academy have been critical to advancing the academic achievement of students throughout the District.

Dr. Bailey has been a very active participant in the community served by the School District. For example, Dr. Bailey was instrumental in developing the Oak Park Business Education Alliance. The Oak Park Business Education Alliance is a non-profit organization designed to build a relationship between the business community and the school district. To date, the Oak Park Business Education Alliance has provided countless volunteers for the district, over \$100,000 in scholarship monies to Oak Park students, and has provided many career development opportunities in collaboration with local businesses.

In his 36 years of service, he has been a truly committed and effective educator. Dr. Bailey dedicated his life to ensuring that stu-

dents receive a fair and equitable education. He is indeed an outstanding public servant. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work on issues of common interest with Dr. Bailey and have always appreciated his frank and forthcoming advice based on his active experiences in the school and community. One could always count on Dr. Bailey to clearly articulate the challenges faced by our school system as well as the real impact of public policy decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Alexander Bailey on his years of service and in wishing him good health and happiness in the next phase of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESSNER
MANUFACTURING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Essner Manufacturing and its achievement of being registered as an AS 9100 Quality Management Standard (QMS)—a designation specific to aerospace component manufacturers. This project took nearly 200 hours to complete and was a complex undertaking.

Working alongside Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) to earn the registration, Essner is a model for other manufacturing centers. Their commitment to making quality products like precision sheet metal fabrications and machined parts is evident. I extend my congratulations to Dale R. Westerfeld, President of Essner and Dave Johnson, the TMAC Project Manager.

I am proud to represent a company that is so strongly committed to quality products and a positive work environment. I congratulate Essner Manufacturing and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF DR. STANLEY CAINE PRESI-
DENT OF ADRIAN COLLEGE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Dr. Stanley Caine, president of my alma mater, Adrian College. During his tenure at Adrian College, Dr. Caine has been, first and foremost, an advocate for his students. His open door policy has always provided an avenue for the students at Adrian College to seek his wisdom and advice. Outside of the classroom, Dr. Caine can be seen at many athletic and other campus events, a testament to his interest and dedication to the students at Adrian.

Providing a world class education requires the resources to recruit the finest faculty and provide the best facilities. During Dr. Caine's tenure, the Adrian College endowment has increased significantly and two major capitol campaigns have been completed. Several new construction projects have provided students

with new facilities that offer more current technologies and student-centered spaces.

Mr. Speaker, today, more than ever, students are seeking advanced degrees, and the most successful institutions have leadership that is focused on success of their students. As President of Adrian College, Dr. Caine has been committed to that goal. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Caine's commitment and wish him all the best on his retirement.

FREEDOM FOR OMAR PERNET HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Omar Pernet Hernández a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Pernet Hernández is the leader of the National Movement for Human Rights. As a peaceful advocate for freedom, democracy and human rights, he has been a constant target of the totalitarian tyranny.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Pernet Hernández was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Despite being confined in the abhorrent, subhuman conditions of the gulag, Mr. Pernet Hernández continues to advocate for human rights for all Cubans, including participating in a hunger strike to demand the humane treatment of political prisoners. According to Amnesty International, he is suffering from lung problems, a chronic gastric ulcer, and high blood pressure. Let us be very clear, Mr. Pernet Hernández is languishing in the gulag because of his belief in human rights.

According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004:

Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening, and conditions in detention facilities also were harsh . . . Police and prison officials beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views. Political prisoners in particular often were held at facilities hundreds of miles from their families, placing an undue hardship on many families' time and financial resources.

Mr. Pernet Hernández is representative of the Cuban people's desire for liberty; despite constant harassment, despite incarceration in a grotesque gulag, he continues to fight for the inalienable human rights of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian dungeons are full of men and women, like Mr. Pernet Hernández, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is totally unacceptable that brave men and women are locked in dungeons because they believe in freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Omar Pernet Hernández and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMEMORATING MEMORIAL DAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this weekend should serve as a time for all Americans to reflect on the great sacrifices of those who have defended our great nation and to honor the men and women who continue to protect us.

As we celebrate this Memorial Day, the thoughts and prayers of our entire country are with our troops and the families who have lost loved ones. Throughout our history, brave men and women have answered the call to duty, and their courage and dedication to protecting our democracy is an inspiration to us all. We are the beneficiaries of their bravery, and we must also be the protectors of their legacy. That is why I am proud to join many of my colleagues in cosponsoring the comprehensive New GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century.

These benefits for active duty service members, veterans, and military retirees would ensure that we fulfill our obligation to our men and women in uniform. At a time when our nation is asking more men and women to risk their lives and security on behalf of our country, we should make every effort to fulfill our promise to them upon their return.

The strength of our nation should not be measured only by our military or diplomatic might, but also by the compassion and dedication we show to those who defend us. Freedom is not free, and we honor those who have paid a price for the liberties we enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to our nation's fallen heroes and honoring those who have made sacrifices in defense of the United States.

AMERICA'S NURSE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention "America's Nurse," an op-ed highlighting the importance of nurses in our country that was published in the New York Times written by Teri Mills, a constituent of mine.

[From the New York Times, May 20, 2005]

AMERICA'S NURSE

(By Teri Mills)

So, national nurses' week has come and gone and what happened? Nothing, despite estimates that by 2020 there will be 400,000 fewer nurses than are needed in this country. Drastic action is required. And here's the action I suggest: dethrone the surgeon general and appoint a National Nurse.

Here's why. Prevention is the best way to lower health care costs. If people take care of themselves and don't get sick . . . well, you know the rest. And who better to educate Americans on how to take better care of themselves than nurses?

After all, nurses are considered the most honest and ethical professionals, according to a recent Gallup poll. It's the nurse whom the patient trusts to explain the treatment ordered by a doctor. It is the nurse who

teaches new parents how to care for their newborn. It is the nurse who explains to the family how to comfort a dying loved one.

Meanwhile, the surgeon general, the nation's head doctor, is all but invisible. If you went to a supermarket and asked 10 people the surgeon general's name or to describe his or her role, it's unlikely that you would find anyone who could. (It's Richard H. Carmona, by the way.)

Now, I'm not saying that a National Nurse will become a household name immediately. But given all that's at stake—the health of a nation—and given the surgeon general's inability to connect with Americans, it seems to me that we should at least give nurses a try.

Here's what I'd have the National Nurse do. She or he would highlight health care education through 15-minute weekly broadcasts that would also be available on the Internet. The emphasis would be on prevention: how to have a healthy heart; how to raise your teenagers without going crazy; how to avoid being swept into the growing tide of obesity.

The Office of the National Nurse would yield benefits in a multitude of ways. The informational programs would decrease dependence on a health care system that is not only expensive but at times inaccessible, especially for those who lack insurance or live in rural areas. Through the office, nurses could sign up for a National Nurse Corps that would organize activities to enhance health in their communities. A National Nurse would give public recognition to the valuable work that nurses perform each day; if we're lucky, the National Nurse would help stem the nursing shortage by attracting people to the profession.

A National Nurse won't solve all of our country's health care problems, but one would definitely improve the situation. America has a history of honoring great nurses—from Clara Barton to Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail. Isn't it time we did so again?

WELCOMING NATIONAL RECORDING ARTIST RON ELLINGTON SHY AND HONORING HIS ACTIVISM ON BEHALF OF STARS FOR PEACE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and welcome Ron Ellington Shy, the musician and actor, back home to Cleveland. Ron will be at the Joseph Gallagher Middle School in Ohio's 10th Congressional District on May 27, 2005, to participate in the "Stars for Peace" rally for peace and violence prevention.

A musician, actor, and dynamic entertainer with incredible vocal ability, Ron Ellington Shy was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a former member of such legendary groups as "The Coasters," "The Drifters," and "Don & Dewey."

Ron was born and raised in Cleveland. He moved to California where he attended Fullerton Junior College and continued his education at the University of Southern California, majoring in psychology and minoring in music. His early career included playing professional football and achieving many accolades for his athletic abilities. He was a Golden Gloves boxing champion and holds a black belt in Karate.